Establishment of High Court Bench in Kerala

2046. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
PROF. P.J. KURIAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Government of Kerala seeking permission of the Central Government to set up High Court Bench in Kerala is pending for sanction and whether Government require any specific and complete proposal from the State Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Jaswant Singh Commission laid down any stipulations for establishment of High Court Bench;

(d) if so, whether the Government's proposal satisfies the principles and criteria laid down by the Jaswant Singh Commission; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) In its report, the Jaswant Singh Commission suggested the broad principles and criteria to be followed while deciding the question of expediency and desirability of establishment of a Bench of a High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The report of the Commission was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha on 20.4.87 and 21.4.87 respectively, which may be referred to.

The question of opening a High Court Bench is considered by the Central Government in the light of these principles and criteria as and when a specific and complete proposal is received from the State Governments in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. However, no such complete proposal in this regard from the Kerala Government has been received.

Pending Public Interest Litigations

†2047. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Public Interest Litigations are pending in courts;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of Public Interest Litigations filed in various High Courts and the Supreme Court as on the 30th September, 2003, 2004 and 2005, respectively;

(c) the number of the litigations adjudicated during the above period; and

(d) the average time taken for disposing of each litigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) The information about filing and disposal of the petitions relating to Public Interest Litigation is available in the Supreme Court as well as High Courts who have been requested to furnish the information which is awaited.

Modernization of judicial system

2048. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that judicial system has gone hi-tech and video conferencing is making justice available via tele-link;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) the number of jails that have since been connected under this system; and

(d) the position of the jails in Orissa and the time-frame within which these would also be covered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) An E-Committee has been constituted by Government to advice on technological communication and management related changes in the Indian Judiciary. The Committee has submitted its report on National Policy and Action Plan for implemenetation of Information and Communication Technology in the Indian Judiciary including video conferencing between courts and jails. It has estimated a sum of Rs. 854 crores to implement the project of computerisation of entire judicial system of the country over a period of 5 years. The assent of the President was also conveyed to the proposals of the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Maharashtra to amend section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 to allow production of an accused before the Magistrate through video linkage.

'Prisons' is a State subject under List-II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution. Therefore, the information on the status of Video Conferencing